

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating refractory depression characterized by dissociation, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dissociation reversing amount of an opiate antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and an effective depression reversing amount of an antidepressant or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the opiate antagonist is an opiate antagonist having a pentacyclic nucleus.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the opiate antagonist is selected from the group consisting of nalmefene, naloxone, naltrexone, nalbuphine, thebaine, and combinations thereof.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the opiate antagonist is selected from the group consisting of kappa opiate antagonists, and combinations thereof.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the administration is oral administration.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the effective dissociation reversing amount comprises an initial dosage of Nalmefene in the amount of about 50 mgs. b.i.d. for about three days, followed by a dosage of about 100 mgs. b.i.d. for about four days, followed by a dosage of about 150 mgs. b.i.d. for about one week, followed by a dosage of about 200 mgs. b.i.d. thereafter until the patient has achieved a dissociation-free state.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the opiate antagonist or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered in combination with a

pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of water, milk, fruit juice and sweetened beverage.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the antidepressant or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the antidepressant is selected from the group consisting essentially of monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor, tricyclic antidepressant, serotonin reuptake inhibitor, selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), aminoketones, serotonin antagonists, dopamine reuptake inhibitors, dual reuptake inhibitors, norepinephrine enhancers, serotonin activity enhancers, dopamine activity enhancers, and combinations thereof.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the antidepressant is selected from the group consisting essentially of amitriptyline, lofepramine, bupropion, citalopram, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, imipramine, paroxetine, sertraline, venlafaxine, nefazodone, nortriptyline, mirtazapine, reboxetine, SAM-E and combinations thereof.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the effective depression reversing amount comprises an initial dosage of Bupropion SR in the amount of about 100 mgs. to about 300 mgs. one time daily.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the effective depression reversing amount comprises a dosage of Venlafaxine in the amount of about 75 mgs. per day to about 375 mgs. one time daily.

14. A method for treating refractory depression characterized by dissociation comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of

- (a) an antidepressant; and
- (b) an opiate antagonist.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the opiate antagonist is an opiate antagonist having a pentacyclic nucleus.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the opiate antagonist is selected from the group consisting of nalmefene, naloxone, naltrexone, nalbuphine, thebaine, and combinations thereof.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the antidepressant is selected from the group consisting essentially of monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor, tricyclic antidepressant, serotonin reuptake inhibitor, selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), aminoketones, serotonin antagonists, dopamine reuptake inhibitors, dual reuptake inhibitors, norepinephrine enhancers, serotonin activity enhancers, dopamine activity enhancers, and combinations thereof.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the antidepressant is selected from the group consisting essentially of amitriptyline, lofepramine, bupropion, citalopram, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, imipramine, paroxetine, sertraline, venlafaxine, nefazodone, nortriptyline, mirtazapine, reboxetine, SAM-E and combinations thereof.

19. A method of treating refractory depression characterized by dissociation comprising administering to a patient in need thereof at least one opiate antagonist;
evaluating said patient for a response to said opiate antagonist;

reassessing said patient for depression; and administering at least one antidepressant to said patient.

20. The method according to claim 19 wherein the step of evaluating said patient for a response to said opiate antagonist further comprises the step of evaluating the patient with the Glover Numbing Scale.

21. The method of according to claim 19 wherein the step of evaluating said patient for a response to said opiate antagonist further comprises the step of evaluating said patient for responses selected from the group consisting essentially of numb, hollow, lack of feeling, and combinations thereof.

22. The method according to claim 19 wherein the step reassessing said patient for depression further comprises the step of evaluating the patient with the Beck Depression Inventory.